

BEACH MAINTENANCE POLICY

PURPOSE

This policy sets forth guidelines for emergency and routine beach maintenance activities occurring within the coastal zone designated by the Coastal Act.

HISTORY

The General Services Department has traditionally maintained the oceanfront beaches in a manner in which the health, safety, and welfare of persons using the beaches, walks, and bike paths is protected. Due to the changing sand levels resulting from wind, storm, and tidal conditions, it is imperative to remove the built-up sand before it accumulates on the oceanfront paths, which could result in serious liability concerns for the City.

Shifting sands also result in damage to oceanfront properties due to increased pressure on retaining walls which can cause the walls to fall. As a service, the General Services Department has, on request, pulled back the built-up sand from the affected properties in order to reduce potential damages. A sand waiver or hold harmless agreement is provided by the resident before City crews begin work.

POLICY

In times of potential oceanfront and bayfront emergencies which could result from above-average tides, surf, or erosion, the General Services, Public Works, and Fire and Marine Departments will collectively determine when, where, and how to best protect properties and residents in the most effective manner. An emergency is a sudden unexpected occurrence demanding immediate action to prevent or mitigate loss or damage to life, health, property or essential public services. Action taken could include the cutting, placement, and construction of sand dikes or berms, the installation of sandbag barriers, or the pumping and diversion of water. Such development requires approval of an emergency permit from the Executive Director of the Coastal Commission. An application will be submitted prior to commencement of the emergency work if time permits, or within 72 hours of the action taken. An emergency permit must be followed up by a regular coastal development permit. The application for the follow-up permit must be submitted to the Coastal Commission's South Coast District office within 60 days of the date of the emergency permit. If no such application is received the emergency work must be removed in its entirety within

150 days of the date of the emergency permit unless waived by the Executive Director of the Coastal Commission.

The General Services Department currently performs many routine maintenance activities within the coastal zone. This includes activities such as trash collection, sidewalk, beach and fire ring cleaning, and sand removal from areas adjacent to walkways, parking lots, and roads.

Maintenance programs, such as the pulling back of sand away from oceanfront properties, as needed to protect existing development and public thoroughfares, are established programs instituted prior to the adoption of the Coastal Zone Management Act, and as such, are exempted from the coastal development permit process.

Adopted - June 24, 1996